

COL. CUTSHAW TALKS

EXPLAINS TO THE STREET COMMITTEE WORK OF HIS OFFICE.

REALLY NEEDS ANOTHER ENGINEER.

Says His Department Was Not Given That Full and Free Investigation Which Should Have Been Given It—Water at the Penitentiary.

The Council Committee on Streets last night resumed its investigation of the City Engineer's office, with a view of reporting to the Council upon the ordinance and resolutions of the Retrenchment and Reform Committee, which had been appropriately referred thereto. There was a long-winded discussion over office hours, the designation of the Engineer's assistants, &c. There were present Chairman Allen and Messrs. Baben, Burton, Carter, Ebel, John J. and John M. King, Lawler, Pollock, and Woody.

The body first heard from the City Engineer relative to the work of his office, and his views regarding the measures spoken of, and he made a most exhaustive statement, showing in brief what his department had accomplished since his connection therewith, covering a period of twenty-three years, and showing that the work had steadily increased, and that the regular force had remained as it stood in 1874. Colonel Cutshaw was very emphatic in the expression of his opinion as to the fixing of the office hours for his department differently from those of the other municipal departments. He declared that he had not been given that full and free investigation that should have been given it.

COLONEL CUTSHAW'S STATEMENT.
This is the statement submitted by Colonel Cutshaw in behalf of the Engineering Department:

To the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Streets:

Gentlemen—When I was called upon to present briefly my views upon the ordinance concerning the Department of the Engineer of the City and Streets, and ask that you will discuss it thoroughly with us, so that you may fully understand how our department will be affected when you shall have concluded your recommendation to be made to the Council.

First, Section 3, chapter 23, City Ordinances, says: "The Engineer shall personally attend at his office a portion of each day, except when leave of absence may be granted him by the Committee on Streets, generally; and his office shall be open for the transaction of business from 8 in the morning until 3 in the afternoon, from the 1st day of April to the 1st day of October, and from 9 in the morning until 3 in the afternoon during the rest of the year."

The proposed ordinance says: "The office-hours of the City Engineer and his assistants in his department be, and are hereby, fixed to be from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M."

WOULD REALLY MEAN NO CHANGE.

We do not see why the meaning and intention of the present ordinance should be changed, even if the hours are extended. No change in the office hours is expected to be constantly in the office, for the Engineer, and especially the assistants, have duties outside, as well as in the office. As a matter of fact, the office is now, and has been for many years, open three hours voluntarily open until 6 P. M. because of our press of work.

If this extension of hours should be applied to us, common fairness requires that it shall apply to all other city officers and persons who now work from 9 to 3, say, or from 9 to 4.

Second, Section 4, chapter 23, City Ordinances, says: "The Engineer of the city shall, by himself or by his assistants, whom he shall be responsible, make all such surveys, plans, and estimates as may be required of him by the City Council, or either branch thereof, the Committee on Streets generally, or any committee of the City Council, and shall also be the architect and draughtsman of the city, and, in respect to buildings and other improvements, make such plans, specifications, and estimates as the City Council may require, and shall in relation thereto whatever else it may direct."

Section 5, chapter 22, "City Engineer, Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings."

Section 15, chapter 40: "City Engineer to examine and report upon buildings to Police Justice."

Section 4, chapter 38: "City Engineer, Engineer James River (Harbor) Improvement."

Section 1, chapter 76: "City Surveyor."

THE LANGUAGE A REFLECTION.

The proposed ordinance says:

"The Engineer of the city and the assistants in his department shall devote their time to the affairs of the city, and shall be held responsible for engaging in any outside work."

The language here used, though probably not so intended, is rather a reflection on our office. We feel sure that those who apply to our office for work can testify to our devoting more than the city's time to the affairs of the city.

Where private surveys have been made outside of city hours they are provided for in City Ordinances, section 1, chapter 76.

THE COUNCIL'S POWER.

We do not believe that the Council has anything to do with any officer's time, or with what he shall engage in after city hours, otherwise the Mayor, City Attorney, President of the Board of Health, Physician at Alms-house, physicians to the poor, Superintendent Public Schools, Coroner, Clerk to Auditor, Harbormaster, and others would be prohibited from engaging in outside work. We see no objection to the ordinance providing that no city officer or employee shall engage in any private work during city hours, but it should be made to apply to all, and not simply to us.

Third, The proposed ordinance says:

"The Council on Streets shall, at their second regular meeting in January, 1897, proceed with the appointment of three assistant engineers in the Engineering Department, who shall be designated as first assistant, second assistant, and third assistant, and they shall perform all duties that may be prescribed for them by the Engineer of the city."

MANNER OF APPOINTMENT.

Sections 2 and 12, chapter 38, City Ordinances, provide that the assistants and clerk shall be appointed by the Engineer, subject to approval by Council in one case, and Committee on Streets in the other.

The proposed ordinance would not apply at the end of the present term, and we do not see why the appointments should be made by the committee now. As the Engineer is made responsible for the work of his department, he should be the one to designate as first assistant, second assistant, and third assistant, and they shall perform all duties that may be prescribed for them by the Engineer of the city.

There shall be three assistant engineers, to be designated as first, second, and third assistants, and a clerk, appointed by the City Engineer, subject to approval by Committee on Streets, who shall perform all duties that may be prescribed for them by the Engineer of the city, and make and keep a true record of its proceedings, without additional compensation.

CANT WELL DECREASE.

Upon the question of reducing our office force by dropping one assistant, we have to say that it is the same force we found here in 1873, and except at intervals, when additional men were employed, no permanent extra work was thrown upon the office, no permanent increase has been made. During these twenty-three years

the work has greatly increased, and additional duties have been added to the office.

See references to new ordinances, section 12, chapter 40, section 4, chapter 38, New and additional work of sidewalks and sewer connections; tables, and the statement of the assistants as to their duties.

We believe the work of the office not only requires the present force, but would have an additional assistant to properly meet the demands upon us.

The proposed ordinance says: "The Engineer shall designate one of the assistant engineers in his department to perform the duties of the position of sewer foreman, in addition to his other duties, and the sewer foreman now employed shall be designated to perform the duties of the said position."

CANNOT BE DISPENSED WITH.

We do not see how a sewer foreman can be dispensed with any more than a foreman of pipe-layers in the other departments of the city. This foreman is required to be on hand to call his gang together to make repairs when reported just as the pipe-layers do. His regular and constant duties are to make the pipe connections from the main sewers to the curb line, and to inspect sewer material as it is brought to the ground, where his work goes on. When several large sewers are being built at the same time we need a man for each to inspect the material and work, and we then put on a temporary inspector for each, the same as every other city does. Although an assistant goes to all this work to give lines, grades, and directions, and to measure up the work, it is impossible for him to supervise the work in such a manner as to prevent bad material or construction, or both; so that some one is needed on the work constantly to see to this. We believe it is to the city's interest to retain a sewer foreman.

Explain the necessity of having a permanent arrangement. The city at one time had several small forces for repairs alone, and afterwards finding a great deal of regular grading and graveling to be done, combined these into three, which were kept on hand for making up the force when the force of each district is scattered over the streets for repairs.

Explain the changes and reduction in managers by former committees.

This is the statement of the third section, as indicated before.

7. This should be left to the discretion of the Committee on Streets.

8. The City Attorney should frame the ordinance properly.

EXTRA HELP HAD BEEN REQUIRED.

While going on copying his statement, Colonel Cutshaw was subjected to numerous questions as to what explanations of his office duties were made to the sub-committee on Retrenchment and Reform. He replied to all interrogations fully. With reference to the proposition to cut off one of the assistant engineers, the Engineer gave a detailed statement of the extra help that his office had required during the past twenty-three years, in order to keep up the duties which fell upon his department. He said that he had heard it charged that it cost the department \$20,000 a year to spend \$20,000 in the city.

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A BALL IN HIS NECK.

WILLIE GRAHAM PERHAPS FATAL-
LY WOUNDED BY SAM HALL.

SHOOTING OCCURS IN MANCHESTER.

Trouble Occurs Over a Poker Game

With But Five Cents Involved—One

Draws His Pistol and the Other

an Axe—Other Items.

The shooting occurred in the house

where Graham boarded, on the Petersburg

railroad, between Hall and Bainbridge

streets, Manchester, about 8:30 o'clock.

The men were engaged in a game of

poker, with 5-cent stakes. They began to

quarrel over the possession of the 5

cents then in sight, and Hall, seeing that

his rights were being jumped up and

said, with drawn pistol, he would kill

Graham. The latter also sprang to his

feet and reached for an axe, which was

lying near by. His hand had hardly

gotten behind him when Hall fired. The

ball struck in the neck, about two inches

below the ear, and ranged upward and

inward, lodging on the front of the

spinal column. The report of the pistol

drew a large crowd about the place, but

the striking of an eye the negro and

his gun had flown. The police were

soon on the scene, and every attempt

was made to head him off, but without

avail. A messenger was sent to Dr. William Matthews, who came in a hurry.

The physician made a close examination

of the man's injuries, and regards the

wound a most dangerous one, with

chances decidedly against Graham's recovery.

MAYOR TAKES HIS STATEMENT.

As the first who reached the house

where the fatal ball was fired was

Mayor Maurice. The Mayor and Dr. Matthews conferred, and the latter

advised that the man's condition was such

that he should be taken to the city hospital.